



## All About The Romans

The Ancient Romans were one of the most successful civilisations in history. They ruled over most of Europe at one point and left a lasting impression on Great Britain. They remain one of the most famous ancient civilisations because of their rich culture and famous heroes. You may think you know a lot about them, but did you know the following amazing Roman facts?

### **They were incredibly clean**

The Romans were some of the cleanest people in history. They built large, communal bathhouses. They would gather together and all take long, hot baths in groups. There were also ice baths where they would cool off. Some Romans would take baths for hours at a time! The English town of Bath is called that because it was the site of a famous Roman bath. You can still visit it today.

### **They changed what type of ruler they had**

The Romans were actually a republic when they first started out. That means that they were ruled over by a king. The Roman Republic lasted from around 509 BCE to 27 BCE. After that, Rome became an empire. This meant that an emperor ruled over the vast land that Rome had conquered. This meant that more power could be given to local leaders. The Roman Empire lasted until the fall of Rome in 476 CE.

### **We still use some of their roads today**

When Rome invaded Britain, it was covered in forests. Any roads were just tracks that had been cleared by hunters and travelers. Small paths between villages were made by hard earth. The Romans changed all this.

The Romans were very efficient. They built towns and forts in places that would be easy to access. They designed their roads to take the shortest journey possible. They were so



efficient that some of the roads are still in use today. They were the first people in Britain to make roads out of crushed stone. This made them more durable. It also meant that they didn't turn to mud whenever it rained.

One thing that everybody knows about Roman roads was that they were straight. They did this by lighting a fire at the start and end of where the road needed to go. The slaves then built the road by heading straight towards the second fire. Clever!

## **Most of Ancient Rome is underground!**

That's right! Over the last 2,500 years, the city of Ancient Rome has slowly been built upon. Even when Rome was in its pomp, builders would take the roofs off of buildings and fill them up with dirt and rocks. These would then become the foundations of other buildings on top of them! They filled the land up around the lower buildings. This meant that Rome became higher and higher above sea level! In 64 CE, a great fire ravaged Rome. Nero, the leader, used the rubble to bury most of what was left and rebuilt the city on top. It has been estimated that most of Ancient Rome was completely buried by around 1580 CE.

### **RETRIEVAL FOCUS**

1. Which town in England was once a Roman bathhouse?
2. When did the Roman republic end?
3. When was the great fire in Rome?
4. Who was the leader of Rome at the time?

### **VIPERS QUESTIONS**

**V**

Find and copy a phrase from the first paragraph that means the effects from the Romans can still be seen today.

**I**

Why might the Romans have wanted to become an empire?

**S**

How were Roman roads different to those that had been built before?

**S**

How did the Romans build straight roads?

**V**

Which word in the text tells the reader that the fire in Rome did a lot of damage?

**V**

What does the phrase "in its pomp" mean about Ancient Rome?